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EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.

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THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

The details of the fighting before Petersburg, as given by the correspondents of the Northern papers indicate the fierceness of the struggle, and in getting possession of the first line of entrenchments, the Federal loss, particularly in officers, was very heavy. On Saturday morning, it is stated, the whole of the Army of the Potomac had reached the front, and the "reconnoissances" that ensued resulted in establishing the position of the Confederates behind a series of earthworks, with a line so formed as to constitute a semi-circle of which both flanks rested on the river, the central portion of the line covering the city of Petersburg. A grand simultaneous attack was originally fixed for four o'clock on the morning of Saturday, in which all the troops that could join in the assault were to have been brought into action. Birney, in command of Hancock's corps was the first to move forward and occupy the line of abandoned works.—Some opposition was made to this movement, but the casualties on both sides are said to have been quite light. Having taken up his position in front of the Confederates, Birney waited until the other corps were ready to advance. At noon all the preparations were made for the second assault. Wilcox's division came up at that hour and formed on the left of the second corps. On the right was Neill's division and Martindale's of the eighteenth corps. The assaulting force which led the attack consisted of three brigades. The order was given to advance, the men rushed forward in the direction of the breastworks, but neither column was able to withstand the deadly fire of musketry, grape and canister that was poured upon it, and after losing a great many of their number they were compelled to retreat, leaving their dead and wounded in the possession of the Confederates. Another storming party composed of several brigades supported by heavy masses of troops advanced, at four o'clock in the afternoon, to assault at a different point, but encountered so terrific a fire, that the troops were speedily either cut down or driven back in confusion. Finding that nothing could be effected, the remainder of the men were withdrawn, as a "further sacrifice of human life would under the circumstances, have been criminal." The New York Tribune and the Washington Chronicle both state that three assaults were made on Saturday, not one of which was successful. According to their accounts, the first charge was made at four o'clock in the morning; the second at noon; and the third at four o'clock in the evening.—After these several assaults had been repulsed, and the troops had fallen back to their original lines, Gen. Grant sent in a flag of truce, asking permission to remove his dead and wounded, but it is said the request was re-

fused. On Saturday night the Confederates are reported to have made an unsuccessful assault on the Federal centre. On Sunday it is stated that there was but little fighting, both armies seeking that rest which after so severe a struggle must have been greatly needed.

The Agent of the New York Associated Press in his dispatch from the Army of the Potomac on the 20th says: "In the charge made by the 5th corps on Friday evening, the 3d brigade of Crawford's division, took the 39th North Carolina regiment prisoners, numbering about sixty men, with their officers, flags, &c. This regiment was on the right of a column who were preparing to make a charge. The loss of the 5th corps will reach about two thousand for the past three days. The 2d corps lost heaviest, the figures being 4,200 since Wednesday."

From the same source, comes the following: "The Richmond Whig of the 18th has the following dispatch from Beauregard to Gen. Bragg, dated Petersburg, June 16, 9.40 P. M.:

"SIR: The enemy made two attacks on our lines this afternoon. They were repulsed with loss. We captured about 400 prisoners, including 11 commissioned officers. They belong to the 1st brigade of Hancock's corps. All is quiet at this moment."

"It also says that communication was interrupted on the railroad to Petersburg, but that after tearing up a mile and a half of the track and pulling down three hundred yards of telegraph wire, the men were so warmly pressed that they backed out and retreated from Port Walthall Junction, after making a stubborn fight until late in the evening.

"The principal fighting occurred two miles from Chester, where we repulsed the enemy and took two lines of their breastworks. We captured a few prisoners, and some of the enemy's dead and wounded fell into our hands. The enemy's troops were commanded by Gen. Gillmore. They consisted of 2,500 all told. Our force consisted of Pickett's division. Our whole losses were not very heavy."

"The following dispatch has been received from General Lee:

HEADQUARTERS, June 17—His Excellency Jeff Davis: At 11 o'clock last night we took the breastworks at Howlett's House. Other portion of the same line were taken.

The battery at Howlett's is being reestablished.

Five vessels have been sunk by the enemy in Trent's Reach. Ten steamers are within the Reach, behind the monitors.

Some fighting occurred near Petersburg this morning, without result.

I have ordered the railroad at Port Walthall Junction, yesterday destroyed by the enemy, to be repaired.

R. E. LEE, General.

A Richmond paper of the 18th says: "A gentleman who left Lynchburg on Thursday says a Yankee force, fifteen thousand strong, under Generals Hunter, Crook and Averill,

were at Forest depot, on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, some eight or ten miles from Lynchburg. They have done a great deal of damage to the railroad, as was to have been expected, but he did not learn the particulars of their vandalism."

The editor adds: "A train of cars arrived here from Danville last night, so the Yankee feat has not yet been accomplished."

One of the latest letters from the Army of the Potomac says: "It is not positively known whether Lee is in front of us or not. The lines of the enemy are around Petersburg, both flanks, resting on the rivers, with the strongest kind of earthworks in front. They evidently calculate to resist our advance here to the last extremity.

The New York Tribune believes that "whatever the cause of failure thus far, it is in no way discouraging." The World thinks Grant, in order to take Petersburg, must now depend upon the bullet and bayonet to accomplish that which has hitherto succumbed to strategy. It also thinks the situation of Hunter is fast growing critical. The failure of Sheridan to accomplish the purposes of his raid, will, it thinks release the recently reinforced garrison at Gordonsville to operate against him, and hence, Hunter must dispose his troops to meet all possible exigencies that may arise, and at the same time abandon his present intentions of raiding extensively upon the Confederate lines of railroad. It, also, regrets that Sheridan's raid was so much of a failure, inasmuch as having had an object assigned him, had he succeeded, he would have inflicted severe loss and great discomfiture upon the Confederates. He failed to do this, and has thereby imperiled the safety of Hunter's column, at a period when the most important results depended upon that General being left free to carry out the objects of his mission. Gen. Sheridan, the "World" is sure, is now endeavoring to make his way to Washington, the Confederates being in such a position that he cannot return to General Grant's army by the route he went out upon. The "Herald" has no doubt that Gen. Lee has resolved to make his fight for Richmond at Petersburg, and that he has no idea of being shut up, like Pemberton, to be starved into a capitulation. The "News," says but a small proportion of Gen. Grant's forces, were engaged in the ineffectual assaults upon Petersburg, and yet the loss in killed and wounded was as great as that which history, with a shudder, records in many of the most decisive battles in modern warfare. At Marengo, the loss did not exceed, on either side, 7,000 men. At Austerlitz, 10,000 men. At Inkermann, 5,000, and so on.

A boy, named Stwens, fell or was pushed overboard from the Duke street wharf, on Sunday, and was very severely injured by his leg being caught on an iron hook and the flesh shockingly torn.